

AMPLIFIED MIND POWER RESEARCH IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

*Soviet advances in
biophysics and
biocommunications
research forced the
Americans to set up
their own "crash
program" in
parapsychology
during the Cold
War era.*

Part 1 of 3

by Martin Ebon © 1996

From the website:
[www.biomindsuperpowers.com/
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[Editor's Note: This article refers to research studies involving animals. We wish to advise readers that we at NEXUS do not condone or support the validity, efficacy or morality of animal experimentation or vivisection.]

THE TOTH INCIDENT

In Moscow on 11 June 1977, *Los Angeles Times* correspondent Robert C. Toth was arrested and detained on a charge of illegally obtaining papers which disclosed "state secrets". The papers had been given to Toth by a Soviet scientist, Valery G. Petukhov. Toth had first met the Russian biophysicist earlier in the year. While Petukhov seemed eager to show his scientific findings to Toth, the correspondent felt that his work was "only theory and far too complicated" for a newspaper story.

Toth reported that, as best as he could recall, Petukhov asserted that certain particles of living cells "are emitted" when such cells divide, that they can be "detected and measured and that these radiating particles can carry information". Their function could "explain the basis for telepathy" and related phenomena.

To Toth, Valery Petukhov seemed "like a serious scientist". According to a card he handed the reporter, he was Chief of the Laboratory of Bio-Physics at the State Control Institute of Medical and Biological Research. He had been recommended to Toth by a dissident Soviet scientist who later emigrated. At their first meeting, the *Los Angeles Times* man told Petukhov that once the scientists had proved this theory he would be interested in writing about it.

Months passed. In mid-June 1977, Petukhov phoned Toth. The biophysicist told Toth that his experiments had succeeded. He planned to describe them in a formal scientific paper; but, as Soviet authorities would certainly refuse to publish his work, he wanted to translate the paper into English and give it to Toth for publication in the West. At the rendezvous, Petukhov took a manuscript from his briefcase. It contained over 20 typewritten sheets, complete with charts and photos of charts. It looked like a complex, comprehensive scientific paper, well-documented, appropriately technical.

Toth never managed to get a real look at the paper; for it was at that moment that a melodrama began, when a Soviet-made Fiat braked sharply at the kerb. The car was filled with five plainclothesmen who jumped out and quite unceremoniously pulled Toth inside.

Robert Toth's account stated: "Our car drove through red lights and down one-way streets the wrong way to a militia [police] station. My captors were firm and polite, offering me cigarettes. I was ushered into a room with an inspector who declined my requests to phone the US Embassy but said a Soviet Foreign Ministry official would be called."

In addition to the Foreign Ministry official and a KGB agent, a man named Sparkin, the police inspector summoned a senior researcher of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Professor I. M. Mikhailov. Mikhailov was asked to provide expert testimony on the paper Petukhov had given to Toth, which the police were now treating as "evidence".

Specifically, Professor Mikhailov stated: "The article beginning Petukhov, Valery G., from the words 'micro-organism self-radiation' to the words 'by means of vacuum particles in space', states that within the content of living cells are particles...and these particles are grounds for discussing the fundamental problems of biology in the context of biology and parapsychology. There is also information about the uses of such particles. This material is secret and shows the kind of work done in some scientific institutes of our state."

This last sentence raised eyebrows among observers of Soviet parapsychological studies throughout the world. Earlier, Moscow authorities on various levels had denied several

times that parapsychology was being researched in the Soviet Union.

A year before, Leningrad writer Vladimir Lvov had published an article in the leading French daily *Le Monde*, in which he asserted categorically: "The truth is simple: parapsychology is not accepted as a legitimate and official branch within Soviet science. No institute or centre or research in the Soviet Union is devoted to telepathy, psychokinesis, etc."

Yet the Mikhailov testimony in the Toth incident directly contradicted the Lvov statement.

Professor Mikhailov's testimony on the Petukhov paper and Toth's police interrogation at the Pushkin Street Station lasted about two-and-a-half hours. At last, a representative of the US Embassy, Vice Consul Lawrence C. Napper, was permitted to come to the station. The reporter's account of his meeting with Petukhov was read aloud and translated into Russian. But Toth refused to sign a hand-written Russian version of it. The KGB man Sparkin then told him he was "free to go".

Toth's Moscow difficulties were not at an end. The following Tuesday, Toth had a telephone call from another US Embassy official, Theodore McNamara, who asked him to come to the Embassy immediately. He added that the matter was "serious".

At McNamara's office, Napper and two other officials were waiting. They handed Toth a Soviet note that had been delivered half an hour earlier. It contained the following passages:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is authorised to state the following to the American Embassy:

'On 11th June of this year, Robert Charles Toth was apprehended at the moment of meeting a Soviet citizen—Petukhov, Valery Georgiyevich—which took place under suspicious circumstances. When apprehended, the American journalist was found to have materials given to him by Petukhov, containing secret data.'

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informs the American Embassy that, in conformity with established procedure, Toth will be summoned for interrogation by the investigatory organs, in connection with which his departure from Moscow until the end of the investigation is not desired."

Within the hour, a polite KGB agent, wearing a flowered shirt and grey suit, arrived, asked Toth to identify himself and told him to come to the State Security's Lefortovo Centre for interrogation. Toth was advised of Articles 108 and 109 of the Criminal Code and that he did not have diplomatic immunity.

After two days of confusing interrogation, Toth was told: "Parapsychology as a whole may not be secret information. But there could be fields of science within parapsychology which are secret. It is not for me, as it's a matter for experts to say what is secret, and the scientist has stated that the materials you received are a secret. And you received them under circumstances where your behaviour and the information seem to be a breach of our law."

After the second interrogation, Toth was told he was no longer needed. The US Embassy received confirmation from the Soviet

Foreign Ministry. Toth and his family quickly arranged for a flight to the United States.

The Toth incident was reported worldwide, and the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* ran accounts of it. The incident then passed into oblivion, and most were none the wiser. But intelligence analysts understood that Toth had got into his hand, if only for a few moments, one of the tips of the enormous iceberg of top-secret Soviet research into psychic powers of the human mind.

FEAR AND IDEOLOGY ON BOTH SIDES

By 1968, some years before the Toth incident, American intelligence analysts had begun noticing a Soviet Secret Police (KGB) trend indicating serious interest in the West in what is called "parapsychology". This trend began when the KGB's far-flung operations came under the direction of Yuri Andropov (named General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party in late 1982).

But even the KGB, for all of its experience, large staff, skills and high-priority status, had not developed a clear-cut policy towards psychic experiments; conflicting attitudes within its leadership appear to have caused erratic actions. This was well illustrated when agents arrested Toth and thereby revealed that secret research was in fact taking place at government institutes.

US Government officials were jittery that research in parapsychology might cause them to be accused of spending public funds on science fiction projects. When columnist Jack Anderson reported early in 1981 that a laboratory in the basement of the Pentagon was devoted to parapsychological experiments, his comments were heavy with ridicule and sarcasm.

Anderson's assistant, Ron McRae, alleged in an article, "Psychic Warfare" (*The Investigator*, October 1981), that "the Pentagon is spending millions on parapsychology in a crash program to end Russia's psycho-superiority".

McRae, who was doing research for a book on US Government projects in psychic studies, said the US Secret Service had "commissioned studies on ways to protect the President from the Kremlin's mind control". He wrote that its agents as well as CIA staffers had been "required to take courses in mind control" at universities in the Washington area, to "prevent them", as he put it, "from falling under the spell of Soviet psychics". Although such claims at the time bore earmarks of exaggeration, they were nonetheless indicative of intense American interest in psi warfare possibilities.

But American media accounts of psi warfare spread alarm and amusement, and an ideological battlefield erupted not only in the United States but in the Soviet Union also. On the ideological battlefield of international Marxism, the controversy about parapsychology, by whatever name, had gone on for two decades; it showed no signs of abating.

Typical of those who regarded psychic studies as ideological heresy was Soviet mathematician-physicist Dr Alexander Kitaygorodsky, who had categorised clairvoyance, precognition and psychokinesis as "supernatural" and thus outside "the domain

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of the natural sciences". Writing in the Moscow periodical *Nauka i Religia (Science and Religion)*, an atheistic magazine, Dr Kitaygorodsky stated as long ago as March 1966: "To me, there is no doubt whatever that those who relate such fairy tales are frauds, mystifiers or, at best, grossly deceived. Men have believed in miracles for centuries, and for centuries there have existed charlatans and impostors, conscious or unconscious. And the struggle against such deception of the human mind has gone on for centuries, and in each century it has to begin anew."

But in the same magazine, science writer Leonid Fillipov took the opposite view and cited Marxist gospel to prove his point. He asked: "Does Professor Kitaygorodsky seriously believe that the frontiers of physics have been reached?" He cited scientific breakthroughs in radioactivity, quantum theory and lasers, and wrote: "What if telepathic phenomena conform to some new, as yet undiscovered laws which do not contradict already known rules governing electrons?" Fillipov added: "Rejecting *a priori* the possibilities of telepathy and other processes still unfamiliar to science amounts to rejecting Lenin's idea that, on any given level of scientific development, our knowledge of the work remains incomplete."

But beyond viewing with exaggerated alarm, ridicule-cum-hyperbole and the credibility gap lie the realities of psychic functions, for good or ill. To obtain the correct perspective, let us keep in mind that parapsychology can play only a supporting role in the Soviet Union's or any other military-scientific complex. It must therefore be seen as one element within a large and diffuse defensive-offensive research apparatus. Psychic elements might well be integrated into, rather than be operated separately from, other scientific or military projects.

A major attraction for planners is the promise of financial and organisational shortcuts. Why engage in high-cost armaments, for example, if one or several psychics might influence personnel in the enemy's missile silos, as a DIA report suggested? The costs of military hardware are a heavy burden on national economies in the East as well as in the West—and ESP is cheap.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOVIET PSYCHIC RESEARCH MACHINE

The origins of the Soviet psychic research machine remain a mystery at best, mostly due to gaps in accessible documentation. In any case, it would be clear that the research and attempted development of specific, useful, psi powers of mind proceeded at the start under severe ideological difficulties. Thus it is not easily understandable how, and especially why, the Soviet research machine grew to the monumental extent it did by about 1977.

Soviet efforts to harness telepathy (mind-to-mind communication), telekinesis (better known as psychokinesis, the influence of the human mind on matter), or any other psychic ability needed to overcome strong ideological objections from Marxist theoreticians. Pragmatists, even those highly placed in scientific or government circles, needed to justify their hopes for psychic experiments in acceptable ideological terms.

Historically, Western parapsychology was rooted in the 19th-century efforts to find scientific proof for such traditional religious beliefs as life after death.

And as psychic phenomena retain the mysterious air of the unknown or unexplored, many Marxists accused Western parapsychologists of propagandising religio-folkloric "superstition" and of advocating soft-headed "idealistic" concepts, in contrast to the strictly "materialistic" approach promulgated by Karl Marx and V. I. Lenin. Such criticisms had been voiced on and off for some 20 years in the Soviet Union.

During the life of Mao Zedong, Chinese Communist ideologues even accused the Soviet Union and the United States of using parapsychology to foster "religion without the Cross" in order to distract their citizenry from economic difficulties.

As we examine analyses of Soviet research, this continuing ideological conflict must be kept in mind. But there can be little doubt that the extent of the Soviet effort did become enormous.

In 1978, a US intelligence report was declassified and released, although it had originally been scheduled for declassification in December 1990. The report was entitled "Controlled Offensive Intelligence Agency (DIA), Task Number T72-01-14". In part, it read:

"The Soviet Union is well aware of the benefits and applications of parapsychology research. The term parapsychology denotes [in the Soviet Union] a multi-disciplinary field consisting of the sciences of bionics, biophysics, psychophysics, psychology, physiology and neuropsychology.

"Many scientists, US and Soviet, feel that parapsychology can be harnessed to create conditions where one can alter or manipulate the minds of others. The major impetus behind the Soviet drive to harness the possible capabilities of telepathic communication, telekinetics and bionics is said to come from the Soviet military and the KGB [Committee of State Security, Secret Police]."

In continuing, the Defense Intelligence Agency report asserted that the Soviet Union enjoyed a "head start" in the field and had provided substantial financial backing. The report concluded

that "Soviet knowledge in this field is superior to that of the US". It noted that Soviet researchers had explored "detrimental effects of subliminal perception techniques" that might even be "targeted against the US or allied personnel in nuclear missile silos" by "telepathic means". The report also stated:

"The potential applications of focusing mental influences on an enemy through hypnotic telepathy have surely occurred to the Soviets... Control and manipulation of the human consciousness must be considered a primary goal."

At this point, the reader should again be cautioned that the ideological controversy about the study and use of psychic potentials in the USSR had created gaps in public knowledge that inevitably led to rumours and unverifiable claims. "Hypnotic telepathy", of which the DIA report spoke, may well have been one of the target areas of Soviet research, but little current information on its status was available.

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However, Russia had a long history of hypnosis studies in medicine, education and psychiatry. Soviet literature reflected ongoing and contemporary scientific interest in the stimulation of telepathy, clairvoyance and psychokinesis, either by drugs or electronic means. In the past, Russian researchers had experimented with telepathy at a distance—a technique of intriguing potential.

SOVIET PSYCHIC RESEARCH ORIGINS

It is quite likely that the Soviet research machine may have originated with the work of Bernard Bernardovich Kazhinsky, a student in Tiflis (now Tbilisi) in the state of Georgia, bordering on the Black Sea. His interests apparently were triggered by a telepathic experience of his own.

In February 1922, Kazhinsky was invited to address the All-Russian Congress of the Association of Naturalists, a top scientific organisation perhaps equivalent to the American Institutes of Mental Health today. The topic of his lecture was "Human Thought-Electricity", and he quickly published a book under the same title.

It would be clear, with Kazhinsky having been invited to address the All-Russian Congress, that the Congress supported and funded Kazhinsky's research work, which thereafter apparently became classified. By 1923, he had published his early findings in a book entitled *Thought Transference*. This book attracted favourable attention among important brain researchers at the time.

More visible and easier to document was the work of Professor Leonid L. Vasiliev, later to become Chief of the Department of Physiology at the University of Leningrad. Born in 1891, Vasiliev had been a student of Leningrad physiologist Vladimir M. Bekhterev, who had established the Leningrad Brain Research Institute. His granddaughter, Natalia P. Bekhtereva, joined the Institute in 1921 and ultimately became its director.

Vasiliev became a member of the Committee for the Study of Mental Suggestion the following year. "Mental suggestion", or hypnosis, became central to his interest. In 1928, he visited Paris as well as other Western European cities. Vasiliev spoke and wrote French fluently, and the Paris Institut Métapsychique International (IMI) remained his major contact with Western psychical research throughout his life.

Vasiliev established an ideological basis for the Soviet research in several books, lectures and articles. His basic thesis was that the experimental facts of telepathy, for example, should be examined from a physiological (or material) viewpoint, so that they could not be exploited by advocates of "religious superstition" (or an idealistic viewpoint). He was criticised as providing a pseudo-scientific framework for a return to idealism under the mantle of Marxist dialectical materialism.

His major and influential book, *Biological Radio Communication*, was published in Kiev by the Ukrainian Academy of Science in 1962. Kazhinsky concluded that he had "experimental confirmation of the fact that communication between two people, separated by long distances, can be carried out through water, over air and across a metal barrier by means of

cerebral radiation in the course of thinking, and without conventional communication facilities."

He added: "One important feature of the above-mentioned experiment is worthy of attention. The electromagnetic waves accompanying the thought-formation process (visual perceptions) in the inductor's brain reached the cells of the inductee's cortex after having travelled a long distance, not only in the air and through water but also through the hull of a submarine. This would justify the following conclusions: 1) these electromagnetic waves were propagated spheroidally, not in a narrow directed beam; 2) these waves penetrated though the submarine hull, which did not block them; that is, it did not act as a 'Faraday cage'."

Kazhinsky noted that a radio receiver in the marine laboratory of the Soviet scientific research vessel *Vityaz* had been unsuccessful in intercepting electric waves emitted in the water by the torpedo fish. He added: "...the radio receivers in the submarine did not intercept these waves. This prompts the conclusion that some

electromagnetic waves of a biological origin possess yet another, still unknown, characteristic which distinguishes them from conventional radio waves. It is possible that our ignorance of that particular characteristic impedes further development of research work in that field."

Vasiliev noted in another book, *Experiments in Distant Influence* (which first appeared in Moscow in 1962), that while official denials of the shore-to-submarine experiment suggested "a certain caution", nevertheless: "This experiment showed—and herein resides its principal value—that telepathic information can be transmitted without loss through a thickness of water and through the sealed metal covering of a submarine; that is, through substances which greatly interfere with radio communication. Such materials completely absorb short waves and partly absorb medium waves, the latter being considerably attenuated, whereas the factor (still unknown to us) which transmits suggestion penetrates them without difficulties."

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EXPERIMENTS BY US CORPORATIONS & MILITARY

Many have claimed that the infamous USS *Nautilus* story of 1959 in the United States served as the major prod for Soviet bio-communications research. However, by 1959, some four decades after the Soviet research had already begun, presumably their machine would not have needed such a prod.

The *Nautilus* was the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, launched in 1954 and christened by First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, wife of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The *Nautilus* made its first voyage under the North Pole in 1958. Soon afterwards, French accounts claimed that while the submarine was cruising deep in Arctic waters it received telepathic messages from a research centre maintained by the Westinghouse Corporation at Friendship, Maryland. The US Navy denied that such a test had ever taken place or that it was otherwise engaged in telepathy experiments.

However, several sources in France appeared which claimed otherwise. My own efforts to obtain confirmation of the French reports were unsuccessful. The reports held that such major US corporations as Westinghouse, General Electric in Schenectady, New York, and Bell Telephone in Boston had begun telepathy research in 1958. The aim was to develop thought transmission by telepathy, to record and produce telepathic signals, and to determine the amplitude and frequencies on which telepathy operated.

According to the French sources, President Eisenhower had received a study prepared by the Rand Corporation of Los Angeles, a "think tank" under contract to the armed forces and other US Government agencies. The report was said to recommend studying the use of telepathy to establish communication with submarines—particularly those cruising in waters under the polar ice-cap, where radio communication channels are particularly difficult.

Westinghouse's Friendship Laboratory allegedly undertook just such an experiment with the USS *Nautilus*, linking one person on land (the sender or inductor) with another person in the submarine (the receiver or inductee) while the vessel was submerged. Representatives of the US Navy and Air Force were present during the experiment, according to the reports.

The original French reports fixed the starting date as 25 July 1959. The tests continued daily for a total of 16 days. The person in charge was identified as Colonel William H. Bowers, director of the Biological Department of the Air Force research institute and the man who directed the experiments at Friendship. Later accounts identified the sender or inductor as "Smith", a student at Duke University, who was confined to one of the Westinghouse Laboratory's buildings during the experimental period.

The procedure was designed to have Smith transmit "visual impressions" twice daily at specified times. Using methods developed by J. B. Rhine at the Parapsychology Laboratory, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, a controlled timing device shuffled 1,000 ESP cards in a revolving drum in such a manner as to drop five cards on a table, one at a time, at one-minute intervals. Smith picked up each card as it came out of the drum, looked at it and sought to memorise the image. At the same time, he drew a picture of the symbol (square, cross, star, wavy lines or circle) on a piece of paper before him. Each test thus produced a sheet of paper covered with five symbols. Smith sealed each paper into an envelope, which Colonel Bowers locked into a cage.

At the same time, a Navy lieutenant, identified as "Jones", sat isolated in a stateroom on the *Nautilus*, functioning as the recipient of the images Smith sought to convey by telepathy. Twice daily, Jones drew five symbols on a sheet of paper, choosing from among the same symbols used by Smith. He placed the sheet inside an envelope, sealed it and turned it over to his superior, Captain William R. Andersen. The captain wrote the time and date of the experiment on the envelope and put it into a safe in his own cabin. During the 16-day experiment period, Jones saw no

one else except for one sailor who brought him meals and performed other routine services.

The final segment of these events, as reported in France, began with the arrival of the *Nautilus* at Groton, its cruise completed. The envelopes were removed from the commander's safe, sent by car under escort to the nearest military airfield, flown to Friendship Airport near Baltimore, and then taken to Colonel Bowers's laboratory. There the two sets of sheets were taken from their envelopes, dates and times matched with each other and the results tabulated. In over 70 per cent of the cases, the figures tallied: Jones had correctly "guessed" three-fourths of the images seen by Smith.

I was put off by these reports, particularly by the high score ascribed to these experimental subjects and by their all-too-typical American names.

On the other hand, the *New York Herald Tribune* had reported on 8 November 1958 that the Westinghouse Electric Corporation had begun to study ESP using specially designed apparatus. Dr Peter A. Castruccio, director of the company's newly organised Astronautic Institute, had spoken of the ESP studies as "very promising", with the caution that "a lot more work must be done before we can come up with anything practical".

I questioned W. D. Crawford, Staff Section, Air Arm Division, Westinghouse, on the project and he said that "while these studies have scientific value, any conclusion at this time would be premature and inconclusive". These statements were published in the *Newsletter of the Parapsychology Foundation* (Jan–Feb 1959), as was a report that Bell Telephone Laboratories had considered an ESP research project but had abandoned it.

The *Nautilus* story is often referred to as a hoax, since the French and other sources remain unconfirmed. However, the telepathic part of the story might have added interest to the Soviet effort, already four decades old by 1958.

In any event, Raphael Kherumain, a prominent member of the Paris Institut Métapsychique International, collected articles on the *Nautilus* story and

mailed them to his long-time professional friend, Leonid Vasiliev.

The implications that the Americans might be conducting ESP experiments did enter into the Soviet Union's ongoing monolithic research machine, which influenced the lives of countless men and women and caused expenditures that by 1983 were supposed to amount to US\$500 million annually.

EXPERIMENTS WITH PSI PARTICLES

Across the Ob River from Novosibirsk, a pioneer town in western Siberia, lies Akademgorodok, or Science City. For some four years, its Institute of Automation and Electrometry maintained a research unit with the nondescript name of "Special Department No. 8". The building which housed the department could only be entered if one knew the code, changed each week, for opening the main door's lock. The "No. 8" operation was devoted to experiments in information transmission by bioenergetic means. As part of its program, physicists sought to discover the nature of "psi

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particles"—the elusive elements that some Soviet scientists regarded as essential to the function of such psychic techniques as biocommunication and bioenergetics.

Novosibirsk was a logical place for such advanced studies. After World War II, its Science City was developed with such single-mindedness that even the names of the streets and city squares reflect its nature. For example, one could take a bus down Thermophysics Street, get off at the corner of Calculators Street and walk across Institute of Hydrodynamics Square. The city contained some 40 research centres and housed tens of thousands of scientists and their families.

When the No. 8 project was established in 1966, some 60 researchers were brought to Science City from other parts of the USSR. One of the researchers, Dr August Stern, provided an account of the department's operation after he migrated to France in 1977. He told the *New York Times* that the project's director, a Soviet officer, Vitaly Perov, had shown special "deference to two visitors", presumably KGB officers, "who came in the early days" of the project "to check on the installations".

Theory and application of psi principles were part of the experiments. Stern dealt with aspects of theoretical physics, designed to solve the enigma of psychic energies flowing between living things. He said that the centre's elaborate equipment had "cost many millions". In line with other Soviet experiments, the Novosibirsk centre did such things as apply electric shocks to kittens to see whether their mother, three floors above, would react to their experience in a telepathic way. This type of experiment was similar to a rumoured test in which baby rabbits were taken down below sea level in a Russian submarine and then killed while the mother rabbit remained ashore, her reactions monitored by measuring brain and heart functions.

Project No. 8 included telepathy-type distance experiments among people. Inductors, or senders, were stimulated in one group of rooms while recipients were placed elsewhere, their responses monitored on closed-circuit television. The centre also undertook the study of electromagnetic forces in person-to-person and mind-over-matter experiments. Among the laboratory animals used in the project were monkeys.

Stern recalled further details: "There were also experiments with photon waves, in which frogs' eyes were used as a more sensitive measuring instrument than a machine. Another experiment involved putting bacteria on two sides of a glass plate to see whether a fatal disease could be transmitted through the glass. It was reasoned that if this could be done, it would show that photons—light particles—accounted for some inexplicable forms of communication."

Stern did not succeed in the project he had been assigned, and which he regarded as a legitimate scientific challenge. In fact, the whole No. 8 department was dissolved in 1969, much too early to have achieved definitive results. Stern concluded that the shut-down reflected "a change in attitude or power balance in the Kremlin". Presumably, Moscow authorities had decided on

different administrative or research tactics in dealing with psychic studies.

Stern's recollections concerning photon waves have since been confirmed. Three researchers at Novosibirsk's Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine and at the Institute of Automation and Electrometry (Siberian Section, USSR Academy of Sciences) are credited with undertaking the key experiment on the problem. They were Vlail Kanachevy, Simon Shchurin and Ludmilla Mikhailova. Their experiment, designed to establish photon communication between cells of living organisms, has been listed in the State Register of Discoveries by the Committee for Invention and Discoveries, which functioned under the USSR Council of Ministers. An English translation of their paper appeared in the *Journal of Paraphysics* (vol. 7, no. 2, 1973) as "Report from Novosibirsk: Communication between Cells".

Their experiment indicated that cells could communicate illness, such as a virus infection, despite the fact that the cells were physically separated. The tests showed that when one group of cells was contaminated with a virus, the adjacent group—although separated by quartz glass—"caught the disease". When regular glass was used to separate the two cell groups, the non-contaminated cells remained healthy.

The experimenters linked their idea to the concept prominent in Soviet bioenergetics research: the existence of unknown communication channels in living cells for the transfer of information—"a language of waves and radiation", as Shchurin called it. The medical researcher added these comments:

"Why should information on all the processes of life be necessarily transmitted by chemical means, which are certainly not the most economical methods? After all, any chemical change is primarily an interaction of electrons, complicated formations that carry a reserve of energy. In colliding with a substance, they would either transfer this energy to it or radiate it in the form of photons, or light particles.

"Today there are no methods for studying the specific character of photon radiations, the constant normal radiation or normal cells. We decided to

evade the ban imposed by physics by creating an artificial situation. We subjected cells taken from an organism to extreme effects to observe the character of radiations emitted by them. That the cell radiated photons was known. But perhaps the cell was able to perceive them, too? Our experiments provided the answers to this question."

The barrier of quartz glass permitted neither viruses nor chemical substances to travel between the two vessels inhabited by the cells. Yet, as Shchurin picturesquely put it, "the affected cells virtually cried out loud about the danger" when they were attacked by the virus, and "their cry freely penetrated the barrier of quartz glass which permitted ultraviolet waves to pass".

"Something highly improbable happened," noted Shchurin. "These waves were not only perceived by the neighbouring cells, they also conveyed the sickness to the neighbouring cells."

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STUDIES IN ANIMAL TELEPATHY

Although the No. 8 project was shut down and sections of it transferred to other cities, animal research in information transmission continued in Science City.

A Novosibirsk toxicologist, Dr S. V. Speransky, discovered a form of telepathy between starving and normally nourished mice. He observed that impulses from hungry mice were transmitted in such a manner that the non-starving mice acted as if they, themselves, were famished. The most complete account of the Speransky experiment appeared in "Parapsychology in the USSR" (Part III), translated by Larissa Vilenskaya from the researcher's original manuscript.

As a toxicologist, Speransky's primary interest was the impact of poisons on living organisms; the mind-to-mind reaction among the mice was encountered accidentally. Speransky's "upper mice" lived on in the fourth-floor laboratory, while the "lower mice" were kept in the basement. In some experiments, the upper mice were starved; in others, they were nourished. Out of the 30 experiments, results in 27

were positive: non-starving mice responded to the suffering of their "friends" who were several storeys removed; in only three cases were the results negative.

Refining his methodology, Speransky engaged in additional series of experiments, altering sex, weight and other variables. He found that the "biological significance of the rapid increase in weight of mice which received signals about starvation from their 'friends' is clear: a danger of starvation has to give them an additional stimulus to be sated". In other words, telepathy-like signals warned the non-starving mice that food was short, so they increased food consumption and storage within their bodies.

Speransky drew this conclusion: "Undoubtedly, mentioning that the transmission of information occurred beyond ordinary channels of perception will remind the reader of such notions as telepathy, extrasensory perception and 'biological radio-communication'. Is it possible to suppose that the transmission of information about starvation pertains to this type of phenomenon? We think so, but cannot strictly affirm it at present. It is only clear that the transmission of information about starvation in conditions

of our experiments goes beyond ordinary forms of interaction of animals. Therefore, we propose to call it 'extraordinary transmission of information'."

Actually, related phenomena had been recorded by Western researchers. Sir Alister Hardy, Professor Emeritus of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at Oxford University, had considered the possibility that telepathic communication among animals might even affect evolution and adaptation. In an essay, "Biology and ESP" (1949), Professor Hardy suggested that animal habits might be spread by "telepathic-like means" and that a "psychic pool of existence" might function among members of a species by some method "akin" to telepathy.

Speransky linked his findings about communication between mice to work done by Gulyaev with his auragram on humans, by Sergeev on human brain activity, and by Presman on the influence of electromagnetic fields upon living organisms. A. S. Presman's work, notably his book *Electromagnetic Fields and Life* (New York, 1970), is internationally known.

Amplified Mind Power Research in the Former Soviet Union

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One rare positive reference to parapsychology-related work to appear in (what was) an East German publication was printed on 15 May 1982 in *Neue Deutschland*, the East Berlin daily published by the Socialist Unity Party. In an article, "Man, Animals and Magnetism", Professor Hans Weiss and Dr Jurgen Hellebrand discussed the question of whether a correlation between electromagnetic fields and life processes does in fact exist. They found that the views of physicists, chemists and biologists vary greatly. They cited Presman's work, notably his references to the apparent ability of snails and birds to orient themselves through the Earth's magnetic field. The two authors denounced popular claims for magnetic healing devices as "clearly humbug", but stated that in such fields as food production further basic research "may permit developments leading to practical applications".

As a leading research centre, Novosibirsk was a natural contact point for long-distance experiments in telepathy. The top Soviet scientist, Professor Ippolite Kogan, arranged a long-distance test from

his Bio-Communication Laboratory in Moscow to the Novosibirsk laboratory. Kogan reported on this experiment *in absentia* to a meeting at the University of California at Los Angeles in 1969. The test concentrated on the telepathic transmission of the identity of various objects, with Yuri Kamensky in Moscow trying to communicate the images to Karl Nikolayev in Novosibirsk. The methods used corresponded to other long-distance tests.

However, Kogan noted that the recipient in the Siberian city "did not have an assortment of items before him", as was arranged later during the Moscow-Kersh tests, so he "could not give specific names for the objects he saw telepathically".

Kogan said that the Novosibirsk recipient was limited to listing "the characteristics" of each item, which restricted statistical analysis of the experimental results to "an approximation". In one such test, the transmitting telepath in the Soviet capital was asked by supervising scientists "to suggest an object they had chosen randomly". Six segments of test were used to transmit images of six different objects; half of these tests gave positive results.

About the Author:

Following service with the US Office of War Information in World War II, Martin Ebon worked on the staff of the Foreign Policy Association and with the US Information Agency during the Korean War. From 1953 to 1965 he was administrative assistant of the Parapsychology Association in New York and travelled extensively on behalf of the Association's research endeavours. He has become well-known in parapsychology circles. His lectures, reviews, research reports, magazine articles and books (over 60 of them) reflect serious treatment of the field. He is a lifelong researcher/writer/analyst on political and scientific developments of Eastern European countries, the former Soviet Union and post-Communist Russia as well as Asia and the People's Republic of China.

In addition to his many books on parapsychological matters, Ebon is the author of: *World Communism Today*; *Malenkov: Stalin's Successor*, a biography of Ernesto "Che" Guevara; *Psychic Warfare* (1983); *The Andropov File*, a biography of the former head of the KGB; *The Soviet Propaganda Machine* (1987); and *KGB: Death and Rebirth* (1994).

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